

H. pylori Serology Obsolete



Helicobacter pylori Antibodies, IgA, IgG, IgM, Serum Obsolete

Effective March 1, 2016, testing for antibodies to H. pylori will no longer be offered by St. Luke's Laboratory. The test is being obsoleted by Mayo Medical Laboratories.

This testing is being obsoleted in an effort to conform to current H. pylori testing guidelines and to improve patient management. Both the American Gastroenterological Association and the American College of Gastroenterology recommend that serologic testing for H. pylori be avoided as a means of diagnosing active H pylori infection due to the following limitations:

- Poor positive predictive value
- Poor performance characteristics of these assays compared to alternative tests.
- Serologic testing cannot be used to distinguish active from past infection or to document eradication of the organism following successful treatment
- Lack of reimbursement from an increasing number of insurance providers

To minimize improper diagnosis and unnecessary treatment regimens, providers should amend their testing strategies by replacing serologic evaluation of patients with suspected H. pylori infection, with either the urea breath test or the stool antigen test.

Recommended Alternative Tests:

Helicobacter pylori Ag, Stool (HPYLORIAGSTOOL). Required sample is 5 grams of liquid, semi-solid or formed feces in a screw-capped container. Send specimen refrigerated. Freeze if specimen will not arrive within 72 hours.

Helicobacter pylori Breath Test (HPYLORIBR). Required sample is pre and post breath specimens collected in Otsuka Breath Tek Breath Test Specimen Collection Kit which is supplied by St. Luke's Laboratory. This test is not appropriate for patients under three years of age.

Both of these tests are performed Monday-Sunday at St. Luke's Hospital Laboratory.

If you have questions, please contact St. Luke's Laboratory 218-249-5200.